



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

March 15, 2012

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email Address
1	Hans Bendeck	Peachtree Hills	phcapresident@gmail.com
2	Janet Byington	District Director for Rep. Gingrey	Janet.Byington@mail.house.gov
3	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
4	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
5	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
6	Diane Cox	Brookwood	dianecox@acpatl.com
7	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennedelk@mindspring.com
8	Rachael Farmer	Wildwood	unknown
9	Jeremy Faughtenberry	Loring Heights	jFaughtenberry@gmail.com
10	Kristy Gillmann	Peachtree Hills	kristygillmann@gmail.com
11	Rep. Phil Gingrey	US Congress, District 11	unknown
12	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
13	Don Hemrick	Paces Battle	donhemrick@aol.com
14	Hunter Hill	Candidate, State Senate 6	unknown
15	Andrew Johnson	Legislature Liaison for Rep. Gingrey	unknown
16	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
17	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
18	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
19	Gloria Love	Northside Neighbor	glove@mdjonline.com
20	Louis Mayeux	North Buckhead/Patch	Louis.Mayeux@patch.com
21	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
22	Roger Moister	Collier Hills North	Moisters2@yahoo.com
23	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
24	Ken Piernik	Peachtree Park	kenneth.piernik@alere.com
25	Loulie Reese	Memorial Park	Loulie_tarbutton_reese@yahoo.com
26	Lt. Marshall Roberson	APD Zone 2	unknown
27	David Ross	Peachtree Battle Alliance	dross1102@bellsouth.net
28	Gary Sayers	Alliance Theater	Gary.Sayers@woodruffcenter.org
29	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
30	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bobschneider@me.com
31	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
32	Jody Collins Weatherby	Peachtree Heights West	jody@weatherby.com
33	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net

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Representation by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	Attendees
Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
Brookwood	Diane Cox
Chastain Park	Jim King
Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
Collier Hills North	Roger Moister
Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
Loring Heights	Jeremy Faughtenberry
Margaret Mitchell	Leslie Churchill
Memorial Park	Loulie Reese, Garth Peters
North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
Paces	Debra Wathen
Peachtree Battle Alliance	David Ross
Peachtree Heights East	Kathy Collura
Peachtree Heights West	Jody Collins Weatherby
Peachtree Hills	Hans Bendeck, Kristy
Peachtree Park	Ken Piernik
Pine Hills	George Mirgorod
Wildwood	Rachael Farmer

BCN 2011/12 Officers (Executive Committee)

Office	Officer	Neighborhood	E-mail
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-chairman	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
Secretary	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
Treasurer	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
Communications	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
Member at Large	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
Member at Large	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net

BCN Standing Committees

Committee	Chair	E-mail
Executive Committee	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Communications Committee	Bob Schneider	bschneider@gardenhills.net

BCN 2011/12 Liaisons

Topic	Liaison	E-mail
Education	Leslie Churchill	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
Membership	Elizabeth Pritchard	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
Neighborhood Governance/Topics	Kathy Collura	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
Parks	Gordon Certain	gcertain@comcast.net
Property Taxes	George Mirgorod	gmirgorod@comcast.net
Public Safety	Barbara Kennedy	bar2010@aol.com
	Tad Linder	tlinder@lindersecurity.com
	Kim Kahwach	KAJensen@bellsouth.net
Redistricting	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Transportation, Development and Infrastructure	Diane Cox	brookwoodcivic@gmail.com
	Ron Grunwald	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
	Deborah Wathen	6wathens@bellsouth.net
	Kristy Gillmann	phca_kristy@hotmail.com

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I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

III. Approval of February Minutes

Minutes for the February meeting were approved.

IV. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

Twenty-eight neighborhoods paid 2011 dues. As of this February meeting, twenty-five neighborhoods had paid 2012 dues. No new neighborhoods asked to be admitted.

Garth Peters said a new Argonne Forest Civic Association, represented by Elden Potts, was being organized and may have interest in joining BCN after they elect officers in late March.

V. Neighborhood Governance Issue

Membership, Web Site and Insurance

Kathy Collura provided two handouts related to a survey she had conducted. Twenty-four neighborhoods completed the survey. The [first handout](#) showed results for various questions related to membership practices, web site operation and insurance.

Most neighborhoods reported membership eligibility for townhouses, condos and apartments. Most neighborhoods also allowed membership by tenants. Associations with membership of only single-family homes tended to have a higher percentage of membership. Membership levels have been generally stable over the past five years for neighborhoods participating in the survey. A variety of methods were used by neighborhoods to solicit annual memberships; the most common effective method was by letter.

Twenty-one of the twenty-four neighborhoods had web sites. Eighteen were operated by unpaid volunteers.

The second [handout](#) listed insurance companies and agents and the costs of the coverage they provide responding neighborhoods. Eleven of the neighborhoods carry D&O insurance while nine carry liability.

[More detailed information about the survey](#) was made available earlier on the BCN web site.

Alliance Theater

Bob Schneider discussed his experience with the Alliance Theater, working with **Gary Sayers**, Marketing Director at Alliance Theater, to set up a *Garden Hills Night* at the theater. They got a package with a meal before, parking and discounted seats. A 15% discount on tickets is available for 10 or more neighbors and 25% for 20 or more. There are other benefits available, such as meeting the cast. To arrange a night for your neighborhood, contact Gary at 404-733-4714 or Gary.Sayers@woodruffcenter.org. The April/May schedule is shown on [this flyer](#).

Nextdoor Neighborhood Web Sites

Jim King mentioned that his neighborhood had worked with a web company called [Nextdoor](#). The Chastain Park neighborhood launched their Nextdoor site in February and already have 350+ households involved. The system lets neighbors contact each other. They can exchange recommendations about painters and plumbers, report lost and found pets, and so forth. Boundaries for all Buckhead neighborhoods have been preloaded in the system. City officials (police, public works, etc.) can make postings into a Nextdoor neighborhood site without being able to see the internal neighborhood postings

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and can get responses from the neighborhood participants. Jim sent a [flyer](#) sent to BCN neighborhoods with more information on how Nextdoor works.

VI. Guest Speaker – Representative Phil Gingrey, District 11

Phil Gingrey, a Georgia native, is in his fifth term as a Congressman. Gingrey is a medical doctor who also attended Georgia Tech. Beginning with the 2012 election, his 11th district will include Cherokee County and 45,000 people in northern parts of Buckhead and Gingrey will be a candidate for reelection – 45% of the new district will be new to the 11th. The new 11th district is shown on [this Metro Atlanta Congressional map](#).

Gingrey said he appreciated meeting with BCN and offered to attend meetings of individual Buckhead neighborhood associations in the future to get to know the people. He introduced his staff, Janet Byington and Andrew Johnson.

He said relatively little was going on in Washington because of the election. He commented that the moratorium on member initiatives (“earmarks”), prompted by things like “The Bridge to Nowhere”, would probably go away some day but the system needs to be reformed. He said the Port of Savannah is in tremendous need of federal funding, perhaps \$300 million.

Gingrey serves on the important House Energy and Commerce Committee, one of Congress’ oldest committees, and also on the Committee on House Administration. Gingrey hasn’t taken a position on the ten-county TSPLOST issue – he said he can’t guess how the vote will come out. He senses that there is opposition in Cobb regarding their transit expenditures which will actually involve a lot of work performed in Atlanta and not so much work in Cobb. An attendee asked whether the projected technological changes, which will result in more people working at home and fewer commuting, had been factored into the TSPLOST plan – he hopes so.

Walda Lavroff asked if the scope of the Energy and Commerce Committee might be too big since it includes areas like the Internet. He said committees can be too big – he said they had held a number of hearings on cyber-security and it is “very frightening”, to individuals, businesses and to our nation. A question was asked about the on-line businesses taking business away from brick and mortar businesses and not paying their fair share of taxes. Gingrey said that was highly controversial – brick and mortar businesses argue that on-line sales should be taxed; others say we are already taxed too much.

Gingrey said the federal expenditures are approaching 20% to 25% of GDP. Historically, it has been 18%. He hopes to bring it back down to 19.5%. He also advocates a balanced budget amendment. Glenn Delk suggested that balancing could be achieved without an amendment if the law required that Congress members not be paid until it is – Gingrey said similar legislation has been proposed.

VII. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Communications Committee** – Bob Schneider reported that the test web site at www.buckheadcouncil.yolasite.com, while not complete, was ready to be moved to production status. He will adapt the site to be able to show local news items in coordination with local blogs and newspapers. Bob’s email is bschneider@gardenhills.net.

Debra expressed concern that portions of the meeting were being recorded on video. The BCN members will think about the issue.

- **Education – Leslie Churchill** said new recommendations were out and would be voted on in a month. Buckhead will not have a new elementary school – an attendance “bubble” is expected but after it peaks, the schools should be adequate. All school, with two exceptions, should be at or below capacity. Classrooms and perhaps a gym will be added to Brandon. Garden Hills will be over capacity for a short time – portables were being considered and if that doesn’t work, space will be sought for a kindergarten as was done with Smith. E Rivers will be bulldozed and replaced
BCN’s interim web page is at www.nbca.org/bcn/index.htm

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with an 800 capacity facility. When the new North Atlanta is in use, the middle school will be relocated to the current North Atlanta building and E Rivers will use the Sutton building for 18 to 24 months. The new E Rivers will be in use in 2015 and Sutton will be available as a middle school facility, perhaps as a sixth grade academy. APS will take feedback until March 25 and will post an updated proposal on March 30. The final recommendations will be posted on April 9 and BOE will vote on it on April 10. 13 schools are to be closed and some board members are unhappy. No attendance line changes are planned. **Jim King** said some neighbors are organizing to support two middle schools rather than the sixth grade academy.

- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Membership** – No Report.
- **Parks** – **Gordon Certain** reported that Director of Park Design **Paul Taylor** has resigned and that **George Dusenbury** had been suspended without pay for five days over a personnel issue. North Buckhead Civic Association is doing a membership survey on the GA 400 Trail. That trail will connect near I-85 to the South Fork of Peachtree Creek Trail and the Beltline Trail.
- **Property Taxes** – **George Mirgorod** reported that Burt Manning has resigned. He will be working as a trainer for the Department of Revenue.
- **Public Safety** – **Lt. Marshall Roberson**, the evening watch commander for Zone 2, said the biggest problem on his watch is car break-ins. He stressed that we are their eyes and ears – if we see something, say something – *call 911 first* with the best description you can provide.
- **Redistricting** – **Jim King** reported that Fulton County published maps but that they may not be approved.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure** – **Jim King** reported that two GA projects, the Northern Concourse pedestrian bridge and the I-85 ramps, had been started. The ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted on the US 41/Chattahoochee bridge project.

VIII. Community Concerns / New Business

IX. Announcements

Chastain Park TriPathlon will be on May 6.

Peachtree Hills' Art Festival will be on June 9 and 10

X. Next Meeting – April 12, 2012

XI. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

***Note:** The opinions expressed by the speakers and individual neighborhood representatives in these minutes do not necessarily represent those of BCN or its member neighborhoods.*

Prepared by Gordon Certain
BCN Secretary
April 11, 2012

Revised on April 13 - Pages 1, 2 and 7 revised to correct omitted attendees, page 5 to correct spelling of "TriPathelon".

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BCN Organizational Status as of 4/11/12

		BCN Dues				Representation at BCN Board Meetings																
Neighborhood	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011												2012		
					3 meet-ings	12 meet-ings	11 meet-ings	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
1	Arden/Habersham																					
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
3	Argonne Forest							9%														
4	Brandon				✓																	
5	Brookwood		✓	✓	✓		17%	45%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
6	Brookwood Hills			✓	✓		8%		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓				
7	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%		✓						✓			✓	✓		
8	Buckhead Heights						8%															
9	Castlewood	✓	✓		✓		17%									✓	✓	✓				
10	Channing Valley																✓	✓				
11	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓		67%	82%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Collier Hills North			✓	✓		8%	9%		✓	✓					✓	✓				✓	
14	Fernleaf				✓															✓	✓	✓
15	Garden Hills	✓	✓	✓			75%	91%		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
16	Grant Estates	✓	✓	✓		100%	83%	82%														
17	Historic Brookhaven	✓	✓	✓		33%	58%	91%			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Kingswood	✓			✓	33%	8%	9%														
19	Lindbergh											✓										
20	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	55%	✓													
21	Loring Heights			✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓	✓			33%	64%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓		67%	58%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
24	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	55%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Paces	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	55%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Paces West	✓	✓		✓		17%										✓					
28	Peachtree Battle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	83%	64%	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	50%		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
30	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	45%	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Peachtree Park	✓	✓	✓		67%	83%	55%		✓		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
33	Pine Hills		✓	✓	✓	33%	8%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Pleasant Hill																					
35	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓		100%	58%	73%		✓			✓									
36	Springlake		✓	✓				55%	✓				✓									
37	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	75%	73%	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
38	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓				17%	9%					✓									
39	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
40	Wildwood			✓	✓	33%		27%		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	Wyngate																					
Neighborhood Totals		26	28	28	25	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	20	19	16	13	20	18	16	20	19	21	17	22	23	20